a nut of which an inner peripheral surface is formed with a helical screw groove corresponding to the helical screw groove of said screw shaft;

a helical circulation path defined by the two helical screw grooves;

a multiplicity of balls so disposed in said helical circulation path as to be capable of rolling; and

a plurality of spacers,

wherein each spacer is disposed between two adjacent balls and has two concave surfaces facing respectively to said two balls, and

a section of each of the concave surfaces of at least one spacer is shaped such that a central portion is rectilinearly connected to an outer edge of the spacer.

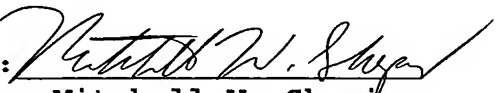
REMARKS

The preamble of Claim 1 has been revised to conform with Claims 2 and 3.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16

and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Mitchell W. Shapiro
Reg. No. 31,568

MWS:jab

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February 11, 2002

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIM:

1. (Amended) A linear motion [ball screw] device comprising:

a screw shaft of which an outer peripheral surface is formed with a helical screw groove;

a nut of which an inner peripheral surface is formed with a helical screw groove corresponding to the helical screw groove of said screw shaft;

a helical circulation path defined by the two helical screw grooves;

a multiplicity of balls so disposed in said helical circulation path as to be capable of rolling; and

a plurality of spacers,

wherein each spacer is disposed between two adjacent balls and has two concave surfaces facing respectively to said two balls, and

a section of each of the concave surfaces of at least one spacer is shaped such that a central portion is rectilinearly connected to an outer edge of the spacer.